

# News from Ed Markey

**United States Congress**

**Massachusetts Seventh District**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **DOE BLACKOUT REPORT A BLISTERING INDICTMENT OF FAILURES AT FIRSTENERGY**

*MARKEY CALLS FOR REPLACEMENT OF ENTIRE SENIOR MANAGEMENT AT COMPANY*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Representative Edward J. Markey (D-MA), a senior Democratic Member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee and the Select Committee on Homeland Security, and the ranking Democrat on the Telecommunications and Internet Sub-Committee, today issued the following statement in response to the release by the Department of Energy of the Interim Report: Causes of the August 14<sup>th</sup> Blackout in the United States and Canada:

“Today’s report vindicates a conclusion that I reached at our hearings two months ago. It seems to me that FirstEnergy should take immediate steps to replace its entire senior management in the aftermath of this series of failures..

“This interim report is a blistering indictment of management and operational failures at FirstEnergy. The report points to multiple failures at FirstEnergy, including failures to ensure the security of its transmission system, a lack of effective procedures to ensure operators were aware of what was going on throughout their system, a lack of procedures to effectively test their monitoring tools to ensure they were working, and a lack of additional backup monitoring tools to allow them to deal with a failure of their primary monitoring systems.

“What the report also shows is the Midwest Independent System Operator also failed to provide the type of diagnostic support needed to identify problems on the grid and coordinate an appropriate regional response. I fear that ability of regulators to correct this situation may be impeded by the fact that the energy bill that just passed the House yesterday contains a number of provisions on Standard Market Design, native load protection, and participant funding that may actually interfere with efforts to build more reliable and well-functioning electricity markets and ensure open and non-discriminatory access to the wholesale electric transmission system.

“While I strongly support the provision of the bill that would make reliability standards enforceable, I fear that these other provisions may actually take us in the wrong direction.

“With respect to cyber-security, the report says that the Working Group has found no evidence to suggest that any of the computer viruses and worms that were then prevalent on the Internet contributed to the blackout. But the report also says that the Working Group has ‘brought to light certain concerns with respect to the possible failure of alarm software; and the lack of a system or process for some operators to view adequately the status of electric systems outside their immediate control.’ I will be looking closely to see what additional analysis and conclusions the Working Group reach on this matter in their final report.”

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